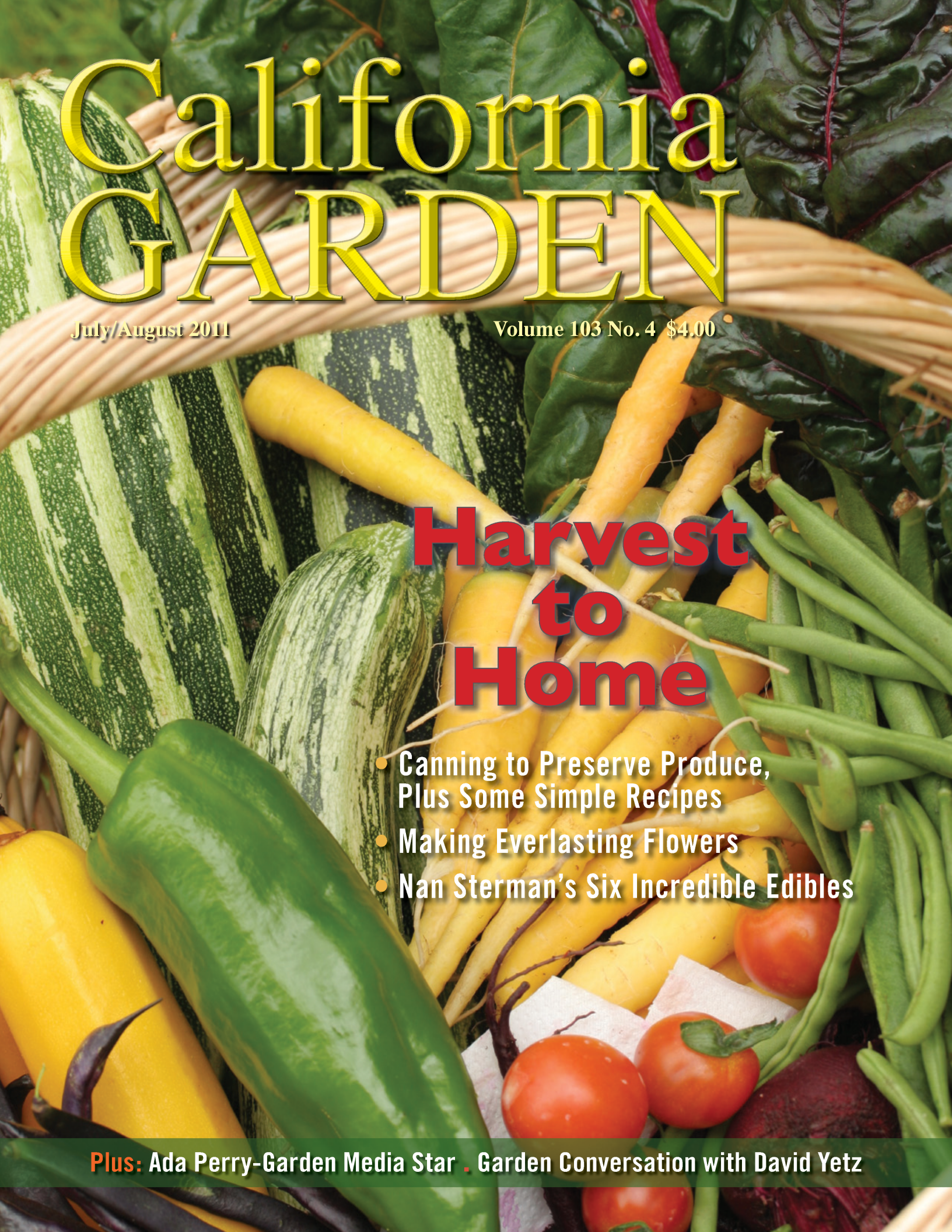

California GARDEN

July/August 2011

Volume 103 No. 4 $4.00

Harvest to Home

- Canning to Preserve Produce, Plus Some Simple Recipes
- Making Everlasting Flowers
- Nan Sterman's Six Incredible Edibles

Plus: Ada Perry-Garden Media Star . Garden Conversation with David Yetz

Garden Expressions

Featuring Selected Regional Artists

August 20 and 21, 2011 • 9 am – 5 pm

The Garden will be buzzing with selected regional artists of all kinds—sculptors, painters, glass artists, potters, gourd artists, fiber artists, and more—creating and selling their work, much of it inspired by nature.

To help celebrate this wonderful dynamic between art and nature we are honoring **James Hubbell** for his amazing contribution to the world of art.

Please join us on **Sunday, August 21, at 1:30 pm** in the Ecke Building for his presentation, "Gardens—the bridge between the Wild and the Order."

Everyone is invited to participate in a community sculpture using recycled materials inspired by participating artist Rodney Rodrigo.

Cost: Free with membership or admission to the Garden.

San Diego Botanic Garden

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www.SDBGarden.org

California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS
July/August 2011, Volume 102, Number 4

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Mary James

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Nancy Carol Carter
Aenne Carver

LIBRARIAN
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CONTRIBUTORS
John Blocker, Nancy Carol Carter, Aenne Carver, Rachel Cobb, Kara Griffin, Marge Howard-Jones, Mary James, Kathy Jones, Denise Thompson, Constance Whitney, Christie Wright

COPY EDITOR
Bonnie Gebhardt

ART DIRECTOR
Rachel Cobb

ADVERTISING
Kay Harry

RENEWALS
Lisa Prindle
membership@sdfloral.org

EDITORIAL BOARD
Nancy Carol Carter, Aenne Carver, Bonnie Gebhardt, Kay Harry, Mary James, Amy Wood

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On the Cover: Home-grown bounty can be preserved or donated to help feed people in need. Photo by Aennr Carver

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San Diego Floral Association
1650 El Prado #105
San Diego, CA 92101-1684
Email: *editor@sdfloral.org*

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Arrangers Guild Chair: Sharon Lowry
Headquarters: Casa del Prado, Room #105, Balboa Park, 619-232-5762
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President's Letter

Dear Floral Members,

Summer brings many opportunities to share your garden's bounty. This issue celebrates the joys of sharing what you grow in your backyard. From your garden's harvest you can enjoy, bouquets, fresh herbs, tomatoes and homemade jam. Reaping such delights make all the hard work in your garden seem worth it. Nature rewards us when we spend time nurturing plants.

Last spring, we reaped the benefits of another enjoyable and charming historic garden tour. As we walked along the streets of Coronado, San Diego Floral friends were standing in each garden eager to share their knowledge and experience.

In June, we elected another fine Board for our organization. Most of the board will continue for another year and that tells me that they found their investment in San Diego Floral Association to be satisfying and well-worth their time. I hope that more of you will consider taking part as the fall approaches. Be thinking now, how you might participate in our many events, including Kate Sessions' Birthday celebration, December Nights, Butterflies in Balboa Park for Science – Family Day, May Day at the Marston House, and finally, another fine Historic Garden Tour. In addition to these interesting events, we are always looking for volunteers in the office and library.

The pleasure of regular visits to our beautiful Balboa Park is an additional benefit to your involvement with this Association. Begin by attending our regular meetings, and you will find new ways to expand your passion for the outdoors, Balboa Park, gardening and flower arranging. Experience the joy of friends that share your interests.

Let summer bring you closer to your garden and its pleasures. Preserve your garden's harvest and share your bounty.

Sandra Dysart, President

Photo: Aenne Carver

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E-MAIL ADDRESS REQUEST

Presently the SDFA is distributing its newsletter through the US mail. This distribution has become very costly to our organization.

Please help to reduce the cost of newsletter distribution by sending us your e-mail address so that you can receive the newsletter via email.

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Art in Bloom

Floral Design Inspires Art at Balboa Park's Spanish Village, July 23, 2011

In collaboration with the San Diego Floral Association and the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation, Spanish Village Art Center in Balboa Park will be the site of Art in Bloom, a free event on Saturday, July 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Art in Bloom celebrates San Diego's deep roots in horticulture. Plein-air artists, located throughout the Spanish Village courtyard, will demonstrate their interpretations inspired by an array of floral arrangements. These floral designs will be provided by the Flower Arranger's Guild, a study group of the San Diego Floral Association. The event, and the demonstrations begin at 10:00 a.m. The "People's choice" voting for favorite artwork and floral arrangements starts at 2:00 p.m. and culminates with cash awards presented at 4:00 p.m. The event continues into the evening with an open house that extends throughout the various art studios.

Several garden and plant groups from the Botanical Foundation will be on hand with plants and information. This event also offers silent auctions, refreshments and art throughout the day.

The Spanish Village Art Center is a community of more than 250 artists from the San Diego region. The 37 working studios enable visitors to meet the artists, watch art being created and enjoy the unique Spanish Village atmosphere. Come to this event, discover these historic studios, and enjoy a day of art and floral design. – *Nancy Carol Carter*

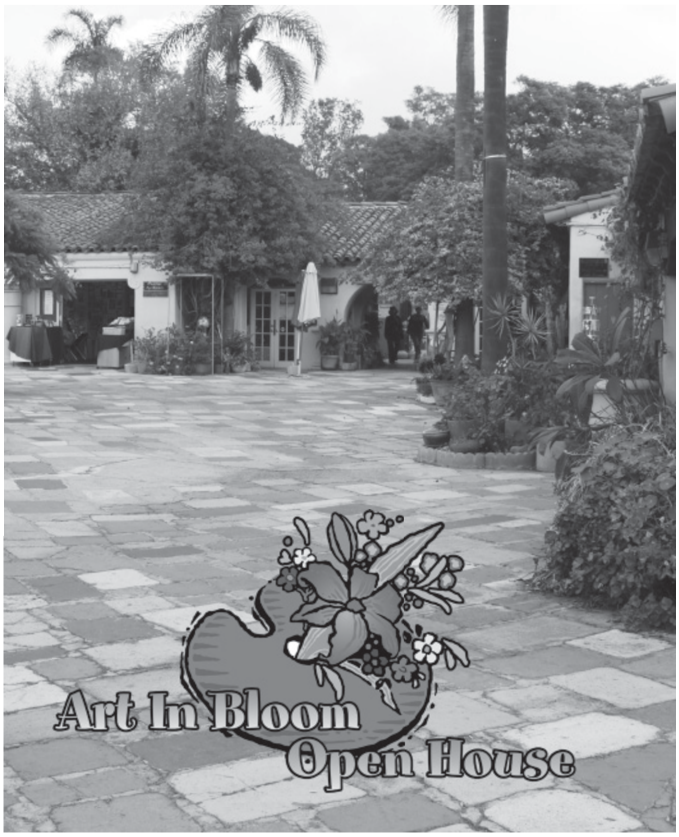


Photo: Rachel Cobb

Garden Jewels Crowned with Success

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Kudos to Cheryl Gaidmore (right) and Kay Harry (left), the co-chairs of the San Diego Floral Association's 2011 Historic Garden Tour, and their hardworking committees. Their efforts led to an outstanding day. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed the "Garden Jewels of the Crown City" tour, and the weather even cooperated as an unpromising morning mist cleared away to reveal a beautiful Coronado day.

Participants commented on the variety of the eight gardens, their fascinating historical links, and the outstanding architecture of the two Richard Requa homes included on the tour. Interesting wares from the *Garden Bazaar* vendors and a talented harpist added to the experience. As a memento of the day, every ticket holder received a free bright red tote bag with the Association's colorful logo. This tour was a notable follow-up to the highly successful 2010 tour in historic Kensington and continues the Floral Association tradition of offering "the garden tour with a difference."
– *Nancy Carol Carter*

Did You Know...?

Where to take Your Ample Edibles

Successful gardeners often find themselves with more produce than they can consume or give away to their neighbors. Use your green thumb to help the hungry in your community. Before you choose where to donate, make certain your homegrown edibles are not under any quarantine. Here are some local places to donate backyard harvest:

Photo: Aenne Carver

Ample Harvest

Ample Harvest focuses on getting fresh produce from millions of gardeners across all 50 states into local food pantries.

For locations of San Diego pantries and their phone numbers, go to www.ampleharvest.org, then click on the "Find a Location" tab and type in "San Diego" or your city. Don't let the initial references to Missouri that come up throw you.

Plant a Row for the Hungry

Since 1995, American gardeners have donated over 14 million pounds of herbs and vegetables to feed the hungry in local neighborhoods, by planting extra edibles. You can't give produce directly to a storefront, but this hotline connects with charities nearby that accept backyard grown edibles. Call the PAR Hotline 1-877-492-2727 or go to www.gardenwriters.org.

San Diego Food Bank

The San Diego Food Bank, in partnership with more than 350 local non-profits, feeds more than 340,000 people every month. Surprisingly, this is more than 10% of the county's population. For more information go to www.sandiegofoodbank.org or call 858-527-1419 and ask for Ben Price, the food procurement coordinator. The SDFB emphasizes that they cannot take produce that is under quarantine.

Senior Gleaners of San Diego County

This group helps with the actual harvest of produce, and they are insured to glean edibles on private property through a federal program. Gatherers retrieve surplus food from fields, groves, stores, and packing sheds. Food is then distributed to various charitable organizations in San Diego County. Go to www.seniorgleaners.com or call 619-582-2299; the San Diego coordinator is Ann Evans.

San Diego Rescue Mission

The San Diego Rescue Mission is a non-profit homeless shelter and recovery center serving thousands of homeless, hungry and the poor in San Diego since 1955. Go to www.sdrescue.org or call 619-819-1793. For faster access to the person in charge of edible donations, call the food service coordinator Chandra McClellan at 619-778-7224.

The International Rescue Committee

The IRC provides opportunities for refugees to thrive in America. Each year, thousands of refugees are invited by the U.S. government to seek safety and freedom. For more information about IRC go to www.rescue.org/us-program/us-san-diego-ca. Extra produce can be donated to IRC via the food assistance organization San Diego Food Not Lawns and through small food pantries. For details contact 619-630-5897 or email harvesting@sdfoodnotlawns.com.

Special Delivery San Diego

Special Delivery San Diego has been saving lives and filling bellies since 1991. This group provides meals to people living with critical illnesses and to those medically homebound. Call ahead only if your produce donation is particularly heavy, otherwise you can just show up. They are located at 4021 Goldfinch St. in San Diego. For more information go to www.specialdeliverysandiego.com or call 619-297-7373.

–Nancy Carol Carter and Aenne Carver

By Kathy Jones

Tip 4: Gardening Improv

The adage "Use the right tool for the job" is generally true. Chores around the garden go faster if you have the proper tool. It is very tempting when you see a weed to just bend over and pluck it with your fingers. However, when you wind up pulling off just the leaves and leaving the root, you are reminded that you would have been better off if you took the time to grab a weed digger.

On the other hand, sometimes improvisation can be brilliant. I am thinking of my neighbor who weeds sitting (and sometimes lying, in tight spots) on her grandson's skateboard. What garden task do you have that you could rethink to make it easier?

– Kathy Jones, Ph.D., is a retired professor in exercise and wellness. A San Diego Master Gardener for 7 years, she is also a graphic artist and copy writer for local clubs and businesses. She is past president of the Mission Hills Garden Club and The Mission Hills Town Council. She has spent the last six years renovating her own 100-year-old garden to incorporate more drought-tolerant plants.

Trees of Balboa Park:

Chinese Windmill Palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*)

Trachycarpus fortunei was named after Robert Fortune who originally collected this palm in China. It is a slow-growing fan palm that can eventually reach 15-40 feet tall. The fan-shaped leaves are circular in shape, 2-3 feet long, with a stalk that is 1-3 feet with small teeth along the margins. The trunk is relatively slender with distinct hairy brown fibers and persistent leaf bases that turn gray with age. It is one of the hardiest landscape palms for California and can tolerate temperature to 10 degrees and below. In China it has been reported to withstand light snowfall.

Kate Sessions is credited with popularizing this tree in the Southern California landscape. Some fine examples of Chinese Windmill Palms are located to either side of the main entrances of the Botanical Building. Other Windmill Palms are growing in Palm Canyon.

Excerpted from Trees and Gardens of Balboa Park *(2001; $25) and reprinted with permission from Kathy Puplava, Paul Sirois, the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department and Tecolote Publications.*

Photo: Don Walker, Courtesy of the San Diego Horticultural Society, reprinted from *Ornamental Trees of San Diego.*

Dig in!

SDBG Hosts "Sculpture in the Garden"

James Hubbell's "Castle" at SDBG.

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Two dozen artists will have work on display at the San Diego Botanic Garden's fourth annual "Sculpture in the Garden" exhibit. Until April 16, 2012, the art work will be on view through out the garden's 37-acres, amid a backdrop of bamboo groves, succulents, rare fruit trees and tumbling water.

Take a self-guided tour with a Sculpture map available at the Garden. All of the pieces are for sale.

"Our artists tell us they could not imagine a more magnificent backdrop for their work than the Garden," says Julian Duval, SDBG president and CEO.

This year's curator, Naomi Nussbaum Art & Design, has orchestrated an eclectic exhibition ranging from functional "garden" artwork to large abstract work with an emphasis on diversity of media and scale.

Among the artists with work on display is James Hubbell, whose sculpture, mosaics, fountains and home designs are on view around the county and as far away as Dubai. His piece in the SDBG show is a bronze entitled "Castle."

In September, Hubbell will be honored at SDBG's 12th annual Gala in the Garden. The September 10 evening garden party features food, live music and floral displays, as well as the tribute to Hubbell.

Details on "Sculpture in the Garden," including a complete list of participating artists, and on the Gala, including advance ticket information, are on the SDBG Web site at www.sdbgarden.org. – *Mary James*

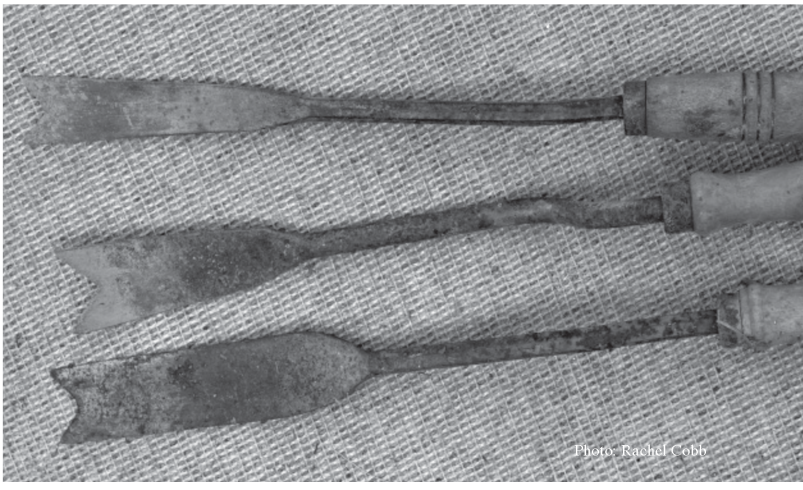
Favorite Tool: Asparagus Knife

Most gardeners might not consider an asparagus knife a tool, but by far it is my favorite. I have collected several over the years, picking them up for a dollar or two at garage sales. The asparagus knife is strong enough to be pushed into the soil and sharp enough to make clean cuts.

I find many uses for it in the garden. Here are a few you can try. For your pot bound plants, use the knife to loosen the plant from the pot's sides. It also is a good aid in dividing the plant.

The knife is terrific for marking short rows in the garden when planting seeds. The best weeding tool, it allows me to get under tough weeds and pull them up. You can use it to aerate the soil in container gardens. If you keep one in your garden tool bag you will find your self grabbing it for all types of gardening needs.

You can buy new ones most anywhere, but I think the old ones have the best character and it is fun to have something to look for when stopping at garage sales. – *Rachel Cobb*



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San Diego Master Gardener Association Presents

"Autumn in the Garden Tour & Market" on Oct. 1

By Mary James

Tickets go on sale in August for the first ever garden tour by the San Diego Master Gardener Association.

Home gardens tended by Master Gardeners in scenic Pt. Loma will open for visits on October 1 when the San Diego Master Gardener Association presents "Autumn in the Garden Tour & Market."

Tickets for this inaugural tour during San Diego's enviable fall planting season can be purchased at www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/gardentour. Cost is $20 in advance; $25 on tour day.

"Autumn in the Garden Tour & Market" will showcase beautiful gardens sure to inspire new and experienced gardeners alike," said tour chair and Master Gardener Mickey Santina. "We chose fall for our first-ever tour because it is the ideal season for gardening and garden makeovers here. Tour goers will expand their gardening know-how while enjoying a fall outing in one of San Diego's most beautiful coastal neighborhoods."

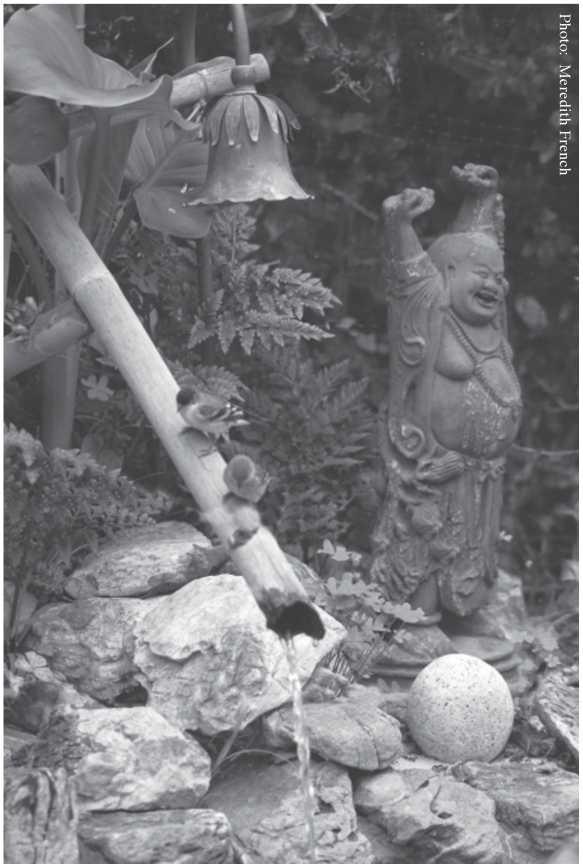

Photo: Meredith French

Seven open gardens will highlight diverse water-wise landscapes and amenities ranging from outdoor kitchens to potagers and orchards. All will feature docent-led tours and educational displays on everything from citrus care to composting, pest control and seed starting. Notable plants will be identified and labeled.

The event also will include a marketplace featuring hand-crafted garden art including birdhouses, butterfly water dishes, crystal garden totems and hypertufa pots. Plants, including many of the plants seen in the tour gardens, also will be for sale.

The gardens can be previewed on the Master Gardener website www.mastergardenerssandiego.org/gardentour/, which also will include up-to-date lists of marketplace goods and vendors.

Proceeds from the tour benefit the San Diego Master Gardener Association, a non-profit all-volunteer organization that has provided free home gardening advice throughout San Diego County for nearly three decades. The 200 Master Gardeners are trained and supervised by the University of California Cooperative Extension.

For additional information on the tour or any other Master Gardener program, contact the MG Hortline at 858-694-2860 Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. or visit the website at www.mastergardenerssandiego.org.

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Six Incredible Edibles

Good Looks and Great Taste – These Garden Worthy Plants Have It All

By Mary James

Nan Sterman's home landscape is a proving ground for many of her horticultural passions—sustainability, water-wise gardening, edibles and garden design. Often the four intertwine, as they do in her popular book, *California Gardeners Guide*, *Volume II*, and her lectures like "Incredible: Edible, Beautiful and Waterwise."

In the vanguard of horticulturists refining the concept of edible landscaping, Sterman cultivates a wide-range of edibles—familiar and exotic—to find ones equal to her high standards in the garden—and in the kitchen.

Here are six she encourages adventurous food-loving gardeners to try in their drought-tolerant gardens.

Chilean guava (*Ugni molinae* or *Myrtus ugni*) – Sterman first spotted this shrub in a Santa Cruz garden where she was drawn to its bright red, blueberry-sized fruit. "They are really sweet-tart," she says. "You pop one in your mouth and say 'Wow!'" Some compare the taste to strawberries with the scent of cotton candy. The 4-foot tall by 3-foot wide bush has small leathery leaves and pink bell-shaped flowers in spring followed by the showy fruits that ripen in fall for a display of seasonal color. Plant en masse to form an unusual hedge. Grow in well-draining soil in sun; part-shade in hot inland areas. Self-fertile. Water-wise once established.

Caper bush (*Capparis spinosa*) – In Italy, these tough prickly shrubs grow in the cracks of stone walls, producing caper buds and berries beloved by chefs around the world. Evergreen and scrambling, caper bush grows about two feet tall and wide. Its attractive leaves are round and deep green; fragrant spring flowers are white with purple stamens. Familiar pickled capers are immature flower buds; caper berries are semi-mature pickled seedpods that Sterman likes to serve as a cold appetizer. Caper bush likes good drainage and little water once established. Flowering and fruiting can take two to four years to begin.

Bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) – A Mediterranean native, the bay tree is the source of the aromatic fresh and dried leaves that flavor classic dishes the world over. In the garden, it is a "noble, beautiful" focal point, round or columnar, to 20 feet tall and wide. Those grown in pots tend to stay smaller. In Europe bay trees often are planted together to form a hedge. Leaves are a rich, inky green; flowers are unnoticeable. Well draining soil is a must. Choose a sunny site; provide some afternoon shade in hot inland areas. Water regularly over the first summer; afterwards, annul rainfall may be sufficient.

Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*) – Like bay leaves, this herb is one Sterman says she can't live without—in the garden or the

Chilean guava

Caper bush

Bay laurel

All Photos: Nan Sterman

kitchen. Ground hugging oregano spreads by underground roots but is not a pest like mint. Its spicy leaves are deep green and lightly wrinkled. The leaves of Greek oregano (*O. vulgare* ssp. *hirtum*) feel fuzzy. (Mexican oregano has a similar flavor, but is a tall shrub in a different genus, *Lippia graveolens*.) *O. v.* 'Aureum' with its glowing gold leaves and 'Variegatum' with cream-edged leaves are highly ornamental. Flowers of all are magnets for bees. Like their Mediterranean neighbors, oreganos thrive in fast-draining soil, full sun and dry conditions.

Dragon fruit (*Hylocereus* sp. and hybrids) – Dragon fruit, also called pitajaya or pitaya, like it "hot, hot, hot," Sterman says. These *Epiphyllum* cousins have flattened stems that clamber high into trees, up walls or along a fence like a grape vine. One in Sterman's garden uses a pepper tree for support. White flowers bloom at night and are highly fragrant. Egg to softball-size fruits have pink skins and white, pink or ruby flesh studded with crunchy black seeds like those of a kiwi. "The fruit melts in your mouth with a mild, sweet flavor," she says. Frost sensitive. Extremely drought tolerant.

Pineapple guava (*Acca sellowiana*) – This handsome ornamental edible is "underappreciated," Sterman says. "It should be in everyone's garden." Planted in a row, these 15-foot tall evergreen shrubs make an attractive screen. They also can be trimmed up to form a multi-trunked small tree. Leaves are olive green above, silvery below. Pink flowers with bright red stamens blossom in spring. Use the sweet petals in fruit salads, Sterman suggests. When ripe, the fruit is self-harvesting, falling from the branches to be gathered from the ground. Cut in quarters and bite into the soft yellow flesh. Yum! Plant in a sunny location and water regularly through two summers to establish. Some supplemental water during flowering and fruiting increases fruit production.

Oregano

Dragon fruit

All Photos: Nan Sterman

Pineapple guava

Enjoy Exotic Edibles and Save Water Too

A Garden Conversation With Horticulturist David Yetz

By Kara Griffin

Growing your own fruit is not as hard as you may think. There are many fruit trees that can be grown in San Diego County with little water. David Yetz, horticulturist for the Water Conservation Garden, tends a four-acre home orchard in Alpine where he specializes in water-wise edibles. Yetz is the former chair of the California Rare Fruit Growers organization and during the past four years has worked at the Water Conservation Garden on the campus of Cuyamaca College in El Cajon.

Q: How did you become interested in growing water-wise edibles?

A: I have always been interested in plants and have been growing water-wise edibles in my orchard in Alpine for 12 years. The Water Conservation Garden where I work specializes in low-water plants. With the economy the way it is, I have noticed an interest in people wanting to grow their own fruits and vegetables. For many people, growing edibles with less water means saving money during these hard economic times.

Q: What are some of the water-wise edibles you grow?

A: I grow many types of plants. The jujube or Chinese date (*Ziziphus jujube*) is a tree that grows red fruits that are similar in taste to a sweet apple. If you let the fruit dry, it gets even sweeter and will taste like a date. This fruit stores very nicely and has a long shelf life. I harvested some last summer, let them dry, and I am still eating them after more than six months. This is a nice looking tree and is very drought tolerant.

Pineapple guava (*Acca sellowiana*) can be used as a privacy hedge or you can grow it into a small tree. The fruit grows into the shape of an egg. It has a sweet flavor and is green on the inside and outside.

Pomegranates (*Punica granatum*) are one of my favorites to grow because there are so many different kinds of them. They grow well in desert areas with little irrigation. I am growing over 40 different varieties in my orchard. Most people are only familiar with the kind known as 'Wonderful' which is sold in most grocery stores. But there are a lot of different varieties of pomegranates that are easy to grow such as 'Pink Ice' and 'Rosamia'.

Pakistan mulberries (*Morus macroura*) produce a fruit that is five to six inches long and purple when ripe. These berries are sweet as candy. A great thing about this plant is that after about a year it does not need to be watered anymore. This tree also can provide terrific shading. If planted in the correct area, it will cool your house in the summertime.

Goji berry (*Lycium barbarum* or *L. chinense*) is another plant I grow and is known as a power fruit. It has a lot of antioxidants and is packed with vitamins. This fruit is good for you and it is now used in a lot of products such as fruit drinks. This plant is a shrub with bright red berries.The fruit is not as sweet as the other plants that I have mentioned; it has more of a tart taste.

Silverberry (*Elaeagnus commutata*) is another bush producing fruit full of antioxidants. It gets no bigger than six to seven feet tall.

Jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*) is a California native plant that naturally grows in the desert. It produces a delicious nut that is high in oil. The nuts can be eaten fresh or roasted. It is very drought tolerant, enabling this plant to grow easily.

Q: Of all the edibles that you grow, what is your favorite?

A: Pomegranates are my favorite. I love growing the different types.

Q: Do you grow your fruit and vegetable trees for personal use?

A: Yes, I grow them for my family and friends. In the future, I would like to sell my home-grown fruits and vegetables at a farmers market.

Q: What are the easiest water-wise edible plants to grow?

A: They all are easy to grow but it is important to know that you should have the right irrigation for these trees. I use drip irrigation for all of my plants. It puts the water exactly where it's needed, right around the trunk of the tree and slowly drips from a tube and creates an inverted cone of moisture. Using this type of irrigation you can save 30 percent on your water bill. I also use a thick layer of three to four inches of mulch on top of the soil. This keeps the water from evaporating and keeps the roots of the plants cool. Mulch has to be reapplied only twice a year. Since I use mulch, I rarely have to use fertilizer. With the proper irrigation and a nice layer of mulch, you can grow many fruit trees with little water.

Q: What kind of soil and how much space do these plants need?

A: They should be grown in well-drained soil. Amendments might be required here in San Diego County. If you do not have a big yard to plant these trees, you can grow them in containers. Clay pots, whisky barrels and other containers will work if you use good potting soil. Pineapple guavas, goji berry and jojoba grow really well in containers.

Q: Which fruit tree do you recommend for people to plant first when just starting out?

A: Start with the pineapple guava because it is commonly available at any plant nursery. Some of the other plants might be harder to find. They are out there; you just need to go to nurseries that specialize in fruit trees.

–Kara Griffin, a student at the University of San Diego, is an intern with California Garden.

Photo: Aenne Carver

Pineapple guava

CRFG San Diego Chapter

The California Rare Fruit Growers, founded in 1968, is the largest amateur fruit-growing organization in the world. Its membership includes hobbyists, botanical gardens, horticultural researchers, commercial growers and academics. San Diego has a very active chapter that offers classes and educational meetings and conducts plant exchanges and sales. Information, newsletters, and meeting dates are posted at the website: www.crfgsandiego.org.

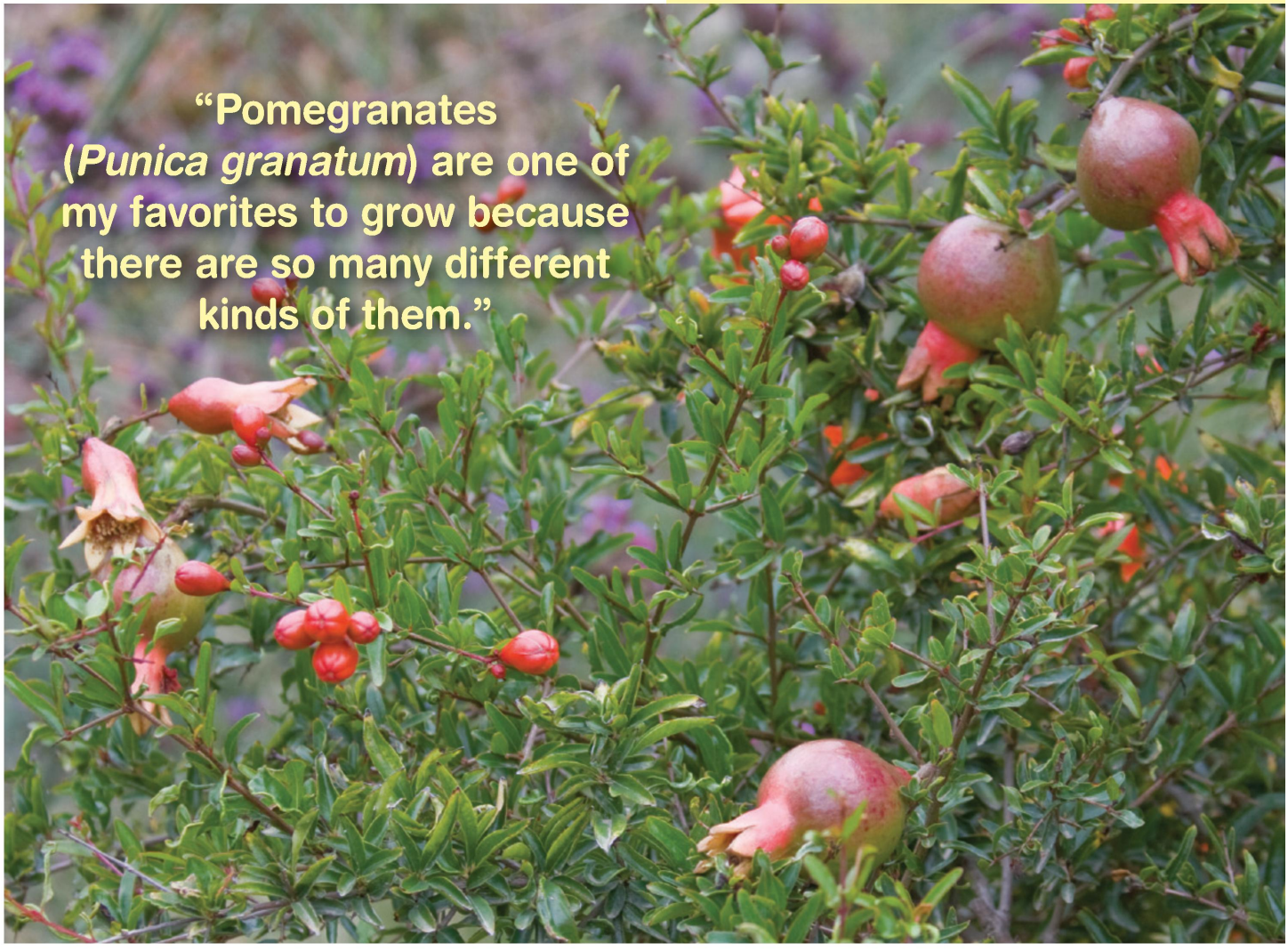

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Growing GROUNDS

Howard Asper and the Camellias of Descanso Gardens

By John Blocker

Photo: John Blocker

Howard Asper Sr. had been so successful growing protea he was dubbed the Protea King. During the early 1990s, as I stood next to the packing shed at Green Valley Nursery in Escondido, Howard Asper Jr. told me, "My dad was the first garden director at Descanso Gardens." Descanso Gardens, I knew, has one of the world's great camellia collections. "Then he was garden director at the Huntington Gardens. He planted a lot of camellias there. We grew camellias here until flower blight began to ruin our crop. That's when we started growing protea." I looked across the protea field to the tall trees lining his property. In the shade I saw camellias.

Camellias Come to Rancho del Descanso

In early 1941, E. Manchester Boddy, owner of the *Los Angeles Daily News*, lined the driveway of his private La Canada estate, Rancho del Descanso, with all the camellias he could find and went searching for more. Camellias might be available, he heard, from a Japanese grower at Star Nursery in Sierra Madre.

World War II had started. Mr. F. M. Uyematsu, owner of Star Nursery, needed a buyer to purchase his camellias before being forced to leave for an Arizona internment camp. Prospective buyers had been offering him cents on the dollar for his stock. Boddy, Howard Asper, Boddy's new curator of plants at Rancho del Descanso, and Charles S. Jones, president of the Richfield Oil Company, paid a visit to Star Nursery.

Howard Asper gives this account of the meeting: "We were amazed to see the thousands of camellia plants ranging in size from twelve inches to eight feet. Mr. Boddy asked the price for the lot and immediately decided to buy. Without any bargaining or hesitation he wrote a check for the full amount asked. When he handed the check to the Japanese owner his face lit up with smiles and tears filled his eyes."

Uyematsu had immigrated from Japan to the United States in 1904. He first imported camellias from his home country in 1908. Initially he sold these camellias from a horse and buggy on the streets of Los Angeles. In 1912 he moved to Montebello and established Star Nursery on a five-acre tract of land. Over the years, Uyematsu imported and sold hundreds of thousands of camellias from Japan. He sometimes would ship as many as 60,000 camellias by rail to one buyer.

When he met with Boddy, Asper and Jones, the nurseryman was growing hundreds of thousands of camellias on his property. Seventy-five percent of those were 'Eureka', white flowers with red flecking also called peppermint stick. Many more were 'Pink Perfection', a shell pink very formal double flower. Both varieties he could sell easily.

Uyematsu also had his own collection of more unusual camellias, varieties he was not trying to sell. On a 1930 trip to Japan, Uyematsu gathered a small quantity of seeds from Dr. B. Miyazawa, a noted hybridizer at the Tokyo School of Horticulture. On that trip he also obtained 25,000 seeds from a nurseryman in Saitama Province who owned a superior camellia collection. From the many seeds he germinated, he had saved 60 seedlings. He felt these 60 were worthy of propagation.

In 1930 he also had imported 500 more camellias from Japan of 113 varieties. He believed these camellias to be the best varieties available, many new to the United States. He planted them at his growing ground in Sierra Madre. Being busy selling the more common varieties, Uyematsu left these camellias more or less unattended. By the time Boddy, Asper and Jones visited, at least half of these special plants had died.

Boddy and Jones bought all the camellias on the property that day, Boddy buying most of the camellias imported in 1930 and Jones most of the unnamed seedlings. The total transaction included about 300,000 plants.

Grafting Camellias

Back at Rancho del Descanso, Howard Asper immediately began to bud and oversee the planting of the camellias under the canopy of an oak grove. Depending on which records are examined, 60,000 to 100,000 camellias obtained from Star nursery and at least one other Japanese nursery in the area were planted. According to Douglas G. Thompson, writing in *Descanso Gardens, Its History and Camellias*, "Mr. Asper managed the procurement and development of the camellia japonica collection second to none in the world."

During the next year, Asper often would graft 300 plants in one day. In 1942 alone, Rancho del Descanso sold 40,000 grafted camellias to Germain's Nursery, a large retail operation in the San Fernando Valley. Since he had so many 'Eureka' and 'Pink Perfection' varieties from Star Nursery, he used them as understock and grafted more unusual varieties on top.

Asper oversaw the development of a wholesale nursery on the property that sold in addition to camellias, roses, ceanothus,

leptospermum, and many other plants. Camellias named after Boddy, Asper and Jones' wives were first sold at Rancho del Descanso. 'Berenice Boddy', 'Mrs. Howard Asper' and 'Jenny Jones' became popular camellias of the time. These varieties originated from Star Nursery's unique collection of seedlings and imports. At least 17 new varieties from Star Nursery were introduced to the trade with at least 12 being first sold at Rancho del Descanso. Boddy and Asper are credited with helping to revive public interested in camellias in Southern California and returning the camellia to fashion and popularity.The nursery also shipped eastward in refrigerated boxcars tens of thousands of camellia flowers to be made into corsages.

The Kunming Camellias

In 1945 Boddy hired Dr. Walter Lammerts, an eminent hybridizer, to establish a horticultural research department at his private Descanso garden. Lammerts' achievements while at Rancho del Descanso could be described as nothing short of spectacular. He developed new varieties of ceanothus, pyracantha and fruit trees; he hybridized the first variety of lilac that grew in Southern California's warm climate. Also while working for Boddy, he created three of the most popular roses ever produced, 'Chrysler Imperial', 'Golden Showers' and 'Queen Elizabeth'.

Lammerts read in the 1938 *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* there were many beautiful camellias in the remote Yunnan province of China that had not been introduced to the West. On April 16, 1947, in hopes of attaining these new camellias, Lammerts began to correspond with Professor Yu at the Yunnan Botanical Institute in Kunming. In March of 1948, Professor Yu shipped 20 varieties of these *Camellia reticulata* to San Francisco. Lammerts picked them up on March 15, 1948, and by March 19 he and Howard Asper had all 20 types planted in new potting mixture and scions budded from each onto new stock plants. By August 28 it was clear that five of the 20 varieties did not survive the trip across the ocean and the required quarantine fumigation.

In 1950 Lammerts learned that Ralph Peer, representing the Southern California Camellia Society, had independently arranged shipment of the same 20 varieties from Professor Yu to the Huntington Gardens. Only three of these camellias survived the trip, but they were three of the varieties Lammerts had lost. Lammerts collected cuttings of the three from Peer and gave the Huntington Gardens viable cuttings of the 15 varieties the Huntington had lost. In the end Lammerts and Asper were able to save 18 of the 20 varieties.

William Hertrich, plant director of the Huntington Gardens, wrote about the camellias sent in these two shipments, "Of the twenty varieties originally imported from Kunming through the assistance of various parties, nineteen are old varieties which Dr. Yu assured Mr. Peer had been known since A.D. 900. The twentieth variety was a cross between an old variety 'Butterfly Wings X Peony-flowered,' made by Professor Tsai." But despite Lammerts' prominence as a hybridizer, it was Asper who later gained fame hybridizing these camellias.

In 1953, E. Manchester Boddy retired from publishing. To ensure survival of his garden, he sold it to the County of Los Angeles and the name of the estate changed to Descanso Gardens. Today it is open to the public and operated by the Descanso Garden Guild.

In 1954 Howard Asper left Descanso Gardens and the employ of Los Angeles County to become the Director of Grounds and Buildings at the nearby Huntington Library, Art Gallery and Botanical Gardens.

Next: Howard Asper plants camellias at the Huntington Gardens and has success hybridizing the Kunming camellias.

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Photo: John Blocker

San Gabriel Nursery

In 1942 Boddy also bought nursery stock from Mrs. Yoshimura at San Gabriel's Mission Nursery prior to her family's internment. She needed to sell her nursery to cover the bank loans on the property. Yoshimura stated Boddy paid full value for her nursery stock and also took over the lease on the property and continued to operate the business. Many of her camellias and azaleas were planted at Descanso Gardens.

Yoshimura was able to give her workers a small bonus before she departed for the internment camp in Gila River, Arizona. The Yoshimura family received installment payments from Boddy while they were interned, giving them capital to restart their business when they returned to San Gabriel.

When the Yoshimuras returned and opened their new business, San Gabriel Nursery, Boddy closed Mission Nursery. Today San Gabriel Nursery is one of the oldest and most respected retail nurseries operating in the Los Angeles area.

ROOTS

Profiles in Horticultural History

By Nancy Carol Carter

Ada Perry

Ada Perry was San Diego's first garden media star. She introduced San Diegans to the novelty of garden information transmitted from a radio show. Perry also wrote a newspaper column for more than 20 years. It was her distinctive combination of solid horticultural knowledge and irreverent humor that drew fans to her weekly "Garden Beautiful" program on the radio station KGB and to her Sunday, *San Diego Union* newspaper columns. Her breezy style stripped the serious, stodgy tone out of garden discussions, and made the whole enterprise sound fun and adventurous.

Unfortunately, only a few facts about her personal life are documented. Perry moved with her parents to San Diego during the 1920s, having spent her earlier years in Spokane and Olympia in Washington State where her father was a journalist. Her love of plants started at an early age and she helped create a garden on the two acres her parents acquired in San Diego.

Photo is by Paul Runde

Finding Her Niche

Although she did not have formal training in the field, Perry was a serious student of horticulture. Her lifetime of research and reading were matched by practical experience. She gardened in San Diego for more than 50 years.

Perry's first paying job in horticulture was with the Harris Seed Company, headquartered in downtown San Diego at Sixth Avenue and B Street. Little is known of her work there, but she certainly flourished when hired later at the Walter Andersen Nursery.

She worked at Andersen's from 1956 until 1980 in a marketing position, although in those days such a title did not exist. Perry publicized the nursery and continued educating gardeners about new plants and gardening techniques through radio shows, published articles, and lecturing. She also taught one of the first series of free classes at a local nursery. *California Garden* reported, "Under the spreading rubber tree, that's Ada Perry holding forth every Thursday and Saturday morning," and went on to warn participants to arrive early because the popular classes often drew 75 or more eager students.

Walter Anderson, Sr., guided the witty and gregarious Perry into her long-held position that highlighted her personality, horticultural knowledge and writing skills. She later wrote, "I honestly believe no other nursery owner in town would have had sense enough to hitch me up to a typewriter. I just did what came naturally – pound a typewriter. My dad was an old time newspaper man."

A caricature of Ada Perry with a California Garden *1972 article on SDFA's 65th anniversary.*

A Garden Legacy

Perry brought her characteristic informal style to *California Garden* for the first time in 1927, years before initiating her long-running newspaper column. The magazine published more than 50 of her contributions over a 50 year span. Perry's topics were as diverse as peat moss, pine trees and dahlias. She eventually stepped into Kate Sessions' role as a reviewer of local flower shows. She also edited *California Garden* for one year, 1947–48, and during the 1950s she wrote the "Garden Chores" column. Combined, Ada Perry's magazine and newspaper articles made a major contribution to the archives of Southern California garden writing.

Perry served as the secretary for the San Diego Chapter of the California Association of Nurserymen and was named a Life Member of the San Diego Floral Association. Her wide net of horticultural contacts included commercial growers, the nursery trade, farmers, city park workers and seed merchants, as well as garden clubs and plant societies. These various entities were all represented when she was honored with an "Ada Perry Day" retirement reception in November 1981.

Local rose growers will recognize Perry's name from the potent rose food mix she developed. The popular and effective mixture has been described in various gardening books over the years. Currently, Walter Andersen Nursery still sells this now

trademarked rose product called Ada Perry's Magic Formula™.

As a beloved Southern California radio and newspaper personality, Perry was asked to lend her name to new plant hybrids. She was first honored in 1976 with the spuria iris 'Ada Perry' hybridized by Eleanor McCown of Holtville. This wine-red iris is a vigorous grower that is highly successful in coastal areas. The pink flowered begonia 'Ada Perry' was hybridized in 1979 by Robert Ammerman of Vista. This begonia is grown primarily for its interesting foliage that offers sharply lobed leaves covered with pink bristly hairs. Shortly before her death in 1983, she also granted permission for her name to be used on a hybridized 'Ada Perry' fuchsia.

Roses were a great favorite of hers, so it is fitting that the miniature rose 'Ada Perry', developed in 1978 by Dee Bennett of Chula Vista, is a successful and widely available hybrid. It's orange-pink blooms, like Perry herself, are known for its lively showiness and staying power.

–Nancy Carol Carter is a San Diego Floral Association volunteer with a special interest in horticultural history. She is also associate editor of this magazine.

Ada L. Perry

Garden writer, radio personality, creator of rose fertilizer.

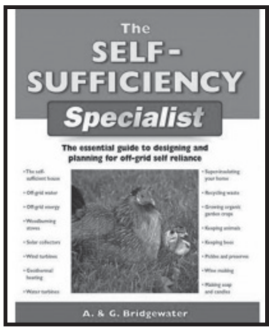
Born: 1904, Spokane, Washington
Died: 1983, San Diego, California

DIG DEEPER WITH:

Dorothy Behrends, "Ada L. Perry," California Garden 73:2 (Mar.-Apr. 1982), 51-52.

Ada Perry, "Birthday Greetings," California Garden 63:6 (Nov.-Dec. 1972), 180. (Perry's writing style is displayed in this celebration of SDFA's 65th anniversary.)

Reviews



The Self-Sufficiency Specialist

By A. & G. Bridgewater

New Holland Publishers
$9.95, (Paperback); 77 pages

The idea of living off the grid, completely free of energy, food and water bills may seem like a romantic goal that is too far-fetched to ever be a reality. Here is a little book that covers nearly every aspect of such a life with enthusiasm. However, the enthusiasm is moderated with caution because the authors fully appreciate the changes in life-style that are involved in being completely self-sufficient.

The prose is easy to read, and the words are accompanied by colorful photos and drawings. The book includes a series of questions for the reader to consider seriously before embarking on any of the projects presented. There are detailed descriptions of how to recycle wastewater and energy saving methods such as insulation and wind turbines. The book also points out the relative advantages (and disadvantages) of rural vs. urban living.

For those not ready to head for the hills and do everything themselves, the most relevant sections of this handsome volume are the ones dealing with animal husbandry and food production. The section on raising animals touches on chickens, ducks, goats, sheep, cows and pigs. Each portion on a particular animal includes suggestions for the best breeds, drawings of potential homes for the critter, and trouble shooting for possible health problems.

Vegetable and fruit production are carefully surveyed, as are methods for storing and preserving home grown produce. Included here is information on how to make beer, cider, candles and even your own vegetarian soap. Now that's self-sufficiency!
–Marge Howard-Jones

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NOW IS THE TIME

Timely tips to keep plants happy throughout July and August

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

- Keep room temperature for African Violets between 60 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Use a camel hair brush to gently remove dust and pet hair from leaves.
- In hot weather mist plants with very warm water and blot the centers of the leaves dry.
- Inspect the outer leaves for powdery mildew. Rinse leaves and rub lightly under running water then pat dry. Try to provide more air circulation to prevent another outbreak.
- Violets with long petioles are not getting enough light and will bloom less often.

BEGONIAS

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

- Remove dead leaves, old flowers and other debris.
- Pot rooted cuttings in light porous soil.
- Check begonias for pests and disease.
- Feed tuberous plants.
- For continued blooms, fertilize all plants.

BONSAI

Kora Dalager, San Diego Bonsai Club

- Turn trees for even sun exposure.
- Inspect bonsai and adjust watering to weather conditions. Try to water early in the morning and late in the afternoon on hot dry days.
- Pinch back junipers and deciduous trees.
- Give blooming bonsai a dose of zero nitrogen fertilizer in August to promote blooms for next year.
- In general, use lower nitrogen fertilizers as the year progresses.
- Watch trees for insects. Spider mites love junipers and pines.
- Treat mite infestations aggressively—hose the foliage daily.
- July is the latest month for defoliating deciduous trees. Place the defoliated trees in the shade and water less often.

BROMELIADS

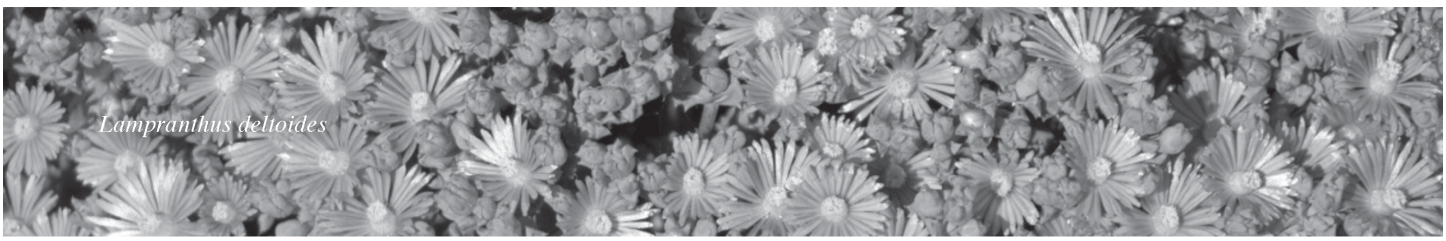
Mary Siemers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

- Continue watering by spraying throughout the summer according to the weather conditions. Make sure not to over-water the potting media, because bromeliads do not like soggy roots.
- Protect plants from sunburn by keeping them under filtered sunlight. Shade cloth is effective, or any other material that allows plenty of light. This helps plants develop a nice shape and bright color.
- To keep snails and slugs away, remove all debris from the plant area and spread wood ashes around it.
- Bromeliads are a prolific plant, and their inflorescences last for several weeks or months. New plants can easily be made to add to your collection. They are hardy and don't require much care.

CACTUS and SUCCULENTS

Don and Laura Starr, The Grateful Shed

- SUN: Direct summer sun can stress succulents, especially inland. Light shade (50% shade cloth) is appreciated by these plants. Black plastic nursery pots increase the temperatures inside for the roots. Cacti do enjoy direct summer sun. If you buy new plants, protect them from sunburn and acclimatize. For existing plants during the summer, watch for the scorch marks of sunburn on echeverias and other large leaf plants.
- WATER: Don't water established in-ground cacti but do infrequently water those in containers. The smaller and darker the container, the more water will be needed. All container plants need water—even drought tolerant ones.
- When watering containers, flush well with water occasionally to remove salt residue. Avoid water on leaves, which can cause sunburn.
- PESTS: Pests, such as aphids and mealy bugs, may infest your prized specimens so gently hose them off with a direct spray of water. Be careful not to over-water containers. Snails will eat and live on your succulents. Frequently check pots on their sides and bottoms for snails.
- Keep all plants and containers free of weeds and dried out leaf material.



Lampranthus deltoides

Photo: Rachel Cobb

CAMELLIAS

Sharon Lee, San Diego Camellia Society

- Apply in July the third and last of the three annual fertilizer applications. The easiest way to remember the three times is to think of St Patrick's Day, Memorial Day, and July 4th. Mix blood meal with cottonseed meal at the ratio of 1 part blood meal to 5 parts cottonseed. Use 1 tablespoon for a gallon-sized plant and up to 2 cups for large in-ground plants. Now is the time to add chelated iron, and/or use a pre-mixed camellia/azalea fertilizer. Follow the prescribed application rates. If you missed the first application, start feeding now.
- Keep your camellias watered. While camellias are not water-hungry, they don't like to dry out. Practice regular watering to avoid bud drop during the bloom season. Occasional deep watering to flush accumulated salts is also a good idea.
- Mulch plants to conserve water and keep roots moist. Camellias have shallow root systems, and mulching helps keep the roots moist. Place mulch 2 or so inches away from the trunk, because camellias do not like their trunk area covered.
- Be on the lookout for insects. You can hose off aphids. Check with your local Master Gardener hotline or nursery for organic solutions to pests.

DAHLIAS

Dave Tooley, San Diego Dahlia Society

- Cut old blossoms back to the first leaves of the main stalk to prolong blooming.
- Thin buds to promote larger blooms.
- Gently tie each cane to a stake to prevent breakage from heavy blooms.
- Continue to water regularly.
- Spray for insects and mildew; control snails and slugs.
- Feed with a 5-10-10 fertilizer.
- Place cut blooms immediately in water. Cut only in the late afternoon or early morning.

Meiwa Kumquat

Photo: Rachel Cobb

EPIPHYLLUMS

Phil Peck, San Diego Epiphyllum Society

- Repot plants that are not thriving, or that have become overcrowded, or split in the middle. Start new plants from cuttings during the warm weather, to establish new growth for the growing season.
- Plants need filtered sunlight and good air circulation. Keep plants out of direct summer sun.
- Remove spent blooms and unwanted "apples"(a seed pod that forms at the base of a flower) to conserve the plant's vitality.
- Water hybrids during the hot summer months, spray or mist occasionally. Do not allow soil to dry out.
- Continue pest and disease prevention regimes. Use "summer" horticultural oils for scale. Bait for slugs and snails.
- Fertilize regularly for new growth.

FERNS

Bob Halley, San Diego Fern Society

- Summer is most ferns growing season, so water frequently to keep up the humidity.
- Keep removing old fronds.
- Fertilize with slow release pellets or half-strength, high-nitrogen liquid fertilizer.
- Spread bait as needed for snails and slugs. Spray for aphids, thrips and scale. Treat for giant white flies by wiping off egg spirals.
- Collect and sow spores.
- Protect your plants from the hot sun.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticultural Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Monitor soil moisture within the root zone and irrigate when soil begins to dry at a depth of 3-4 inches.
- Periodically apply enough water to leach salts below the plant roots (2-3 feet deep).
- Support limbs that have a heavy fruit load.
- Begin harvesting fruit as soon as it begins to ripen.
- Remove all fruit that is damaged or on the ground to discourage green fruit beetles and other scavengers.
- Prune out shoots killed by fire blight on pear, apple, quince and loquat. If possible make cuts at least 12 inches below the infected tissue. Disinfect pruning shears between cuts.
- Keep ants off trees. Wrap a strip of heavy paper around the trunk and apply a sticky barrier like Tanglefoot. Periodically wash foliage with a forceful spray of water to promote biological control of spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, scale and other insects.

- Inspect new leaves for signs of zinc and iron deficiency (yellowing between the veins). Apply micronutrient spray if needed.
- Prune out blackberry and raspberry canes that have borne fruit.
- Watch for Diaprepes root weevil damage on citrus and other woody plants. To see photos of the pest and damage visit: www.cdfa.ca.gov and enter "Diaprepes" in the search box.

Photo: Rachel Cobb

HERBS

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Deep water your basil, mint, Yerba mansa, Gota kola, horsetail, comfrey and other water loving plants. Do not over-water your drought tolerant herbs such as rosemary, lavender, sage, thyme and aloe.
- Fertilize and mulch the garden.
- Dry bundles of oregano, thyme, sage, lemongrass, lemon balm, raspberry leaf, feverfew, bay leaf, chamomile and stevia.
- Prepare the garden for a September planting.

IRIS

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

- Refresh iris beds. Dig over-crowded clumps. Divide and share rhizomes with friends.
- Add amenities such as fertilizer, peat moss, compost, gypsum and new topsoil to the beds.
- Rototill the soil well and allow the bed to stand for a week if possible before replanting.
- Iris can remain out of the ground three weeks or more before replanting.
- Plant rhizomes with the top quarter showing above the soil line—they breathe. Trim the roots back to one-half inch. They send out new roots within a few weeks.
- New beds need plenty of water.
- Irises are heavy feeders. Fertilize at least three times a year. You can foliar-feed in between.

NATIVE PLANTS

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Let your natives go into summer dormancy.
- Many established natives need little or no summer water but most are happier being watered once or twice a month. Spray the landscape with a hose. This mimics a summer storm and washes the leaves clean. Do not put drip systems directly at the base of the plants.
- Prune overgrown shrubs from pathways.
- Reduce fire risk, by lacing out any dead wood on perennials, shrubs or trees such as toyon, lemonade berry, sumac and oak. Cut down or compost the dead annuals and grasses.
- Lightly mulch all bare soil areas.

ORCHIDS

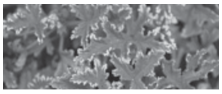
Christopher Croom, San Diego County Orchid Society

- Protect your orchids from sunburn. Insulate the more sensitive cloud forest orchids from heat and dryness by watering more often and providing more shade. Consider watering in the early evenings when the nighttime temperatures are above 65 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Plants are in active growth now—continue watering and fertilizing steadily.
- Add more moss to mounted plants that show signs of dehydration, like wrinkly and yellowed leaves.
- Protect orchids from scale, aphids, cottony mealy bugs, spider mites and other sucking insects by using an insecticidal soap or pesticide.

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Rosa 'Lavender Dream'

Photo: Rachel Cobb



PELARGONIUMS

Jim Zemick, San Diego Geranium Society

- Avoid unnecessary pruning but continue to remove dead, old or damaged leaves. Watch for geranium rust in high humidity areas and treat appropriately. Deadhead as soon as blooms pass their peak.
- Do not let plants dry out, water in the early morning or early evenings for the best results. Some plants such as Martha Washington (Regal) geraniums quit blooming if allowed to become too dry. Avoid getting foliage and flowers wet.
- Use a good commercial fertilizer at two-week intervals. Use at one-third to one-half of the label recommendation. As an alternative, try one of the Gro-Power type fertilizers. These have time-released nitrogen that is not heat released so plants will not burn. Most of these formulas are applied only once every 3-6 months. Be sure to keep plants moist when using these products.
- Budworms can become a problem; use a systemic insecticide for best results. If you use B.T. (bacillus thuringiensis) then spray every seven days. If not controlled budworm eventually bores into the plant stems which leads to rots, funguses, and can even kill your plants. Follow manufacturers' recommendations to provide continuous protection. Protect plants from sun damage.
- Rotate plants to keep them well-shaped and covered with blooms.

PLUMERIAS

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

- Plant cuttings that have calloused over for at least three weeks. Use quick draining soil such as a cactus mix. Water well once, then do not water or feed until the leaves are about one inch.
- Fertilize growing plants once a month with low nitrogen and high phosphorous fertilizer, using one tablespoon per gallon pot.
- When no moisture is present in the top two inches of a pot, water until it runs out the bottom. Use no under dish, or saucer.
- Place nylon netting or stocking over seed pods to capture seeds when pods open.
- Place in full sun.

ROSES

Roger English, San Diego Rose Society

- Be sure to water at least three times a week, and more often if temperatures exceed 84 degrees Fahrenheit. In very hot weather, roses lose water faster from their leaves than they are able to draw it up from the roots. This can cause wilting.
- Deadhead summer blooms. Prune roses at an outward facing five-leaf leaflet. Cut the stem far enough down the bush to support the next bloom.
- In summer heat, roses consume food faster. In extremely hot weather growth slows, and less food is needed. Follow the fertilizer package directions.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Make last planting of warm-season vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, beans and summer squash) in July for fall harvest.
- Plant seed of cole crops (cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower) in August for winter harvest.
- Cover seed with floating row covers to protect young plants from insects.
- Withhold water from rhubarb and artichoke and allow plants to go dormant until fall.
- To control corn earworm, apply Carbaryl (Sevin) or BT when silk first emerges, then every three days until silk turns brown.
- Learn more about vegetable gardening at http://vric.ucdavis.edu.

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You Can Can

Get started preserving your backyard edibles

By Aenne Carver

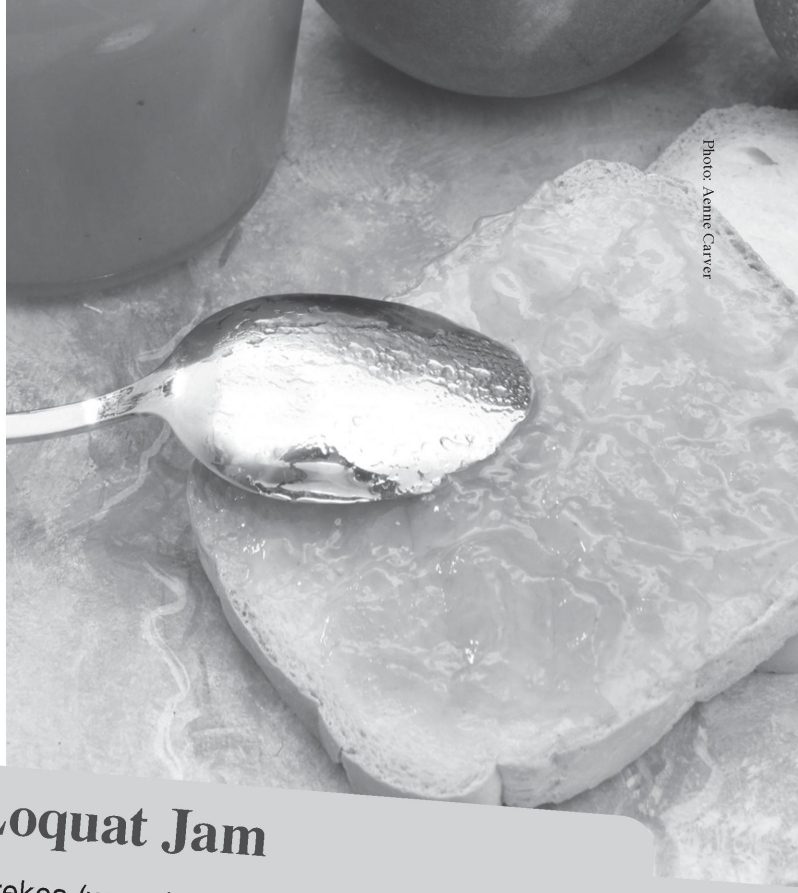


Photo: Aenne Carver

Whenever I smell peaches I think of my grandmother. She lived in Utah, and I visited her every summer when her peaches were ripening. Inevitably, on the hottest day of August, the canning commenced. My grandmother calmly orchestrated a bubbling pot of peaches, sweaty bottles dipped in and out of water, and plenty of gadgets, like funnels, spoons and tongs, all lined up and ready to go. Strangely, I never recall helping her, except for the eating part. She would save some peach jam, still runny and warm, and pour it over vanilla ice cream.

Her jam was the best in the world. I saved my last jar after she died, like a bottle of fine wine. It was peaches with toasted, slivered almonds and a hint of vanilla and cinnamon. This stuff was ambrosia, and I ate it slowly, one small bite at a time. I still have the jar.

Now I am growing more fruits and vegetables, and like most gardeners today I want to preserve my produce. I have made freezer jam and quick pickled vegetables, but I want to try the old fashioned, real-deal: Canning. However, I don't want to spend the day in a hot kitchen and I don't want to poison my friends. My grandmother made it look like clockwork. Why did I not pay more attention?

Easy Loquat Jam

by Erika Kerekes (www.inerikaskitchen.com)

Peel the loquats and strip the flesh from the seedpod with your hands over a bowl, mushing it up as you go.

Add sugar - I used about a cup per pound (of loquats before peeling)—but this is very approximate. Let the mixture sit about half an hour so the juices come out of the fruit, then mix with a spoon to distribute.

Then put over a medium flame, bring to a boil, lower heat and simmer about 45 minutes or until it looks thickened. I don't use pectin—loquats have their own. Pour into sterilized jars and cap.

The Basics

I needed advice from an expert, so I called on Caron Golden, who writes the column "Local Bounty" for *San Diego Magazine*, and a popular blog called San Diego Foodstuff. Golden agrees that most cooks don't want daylong sessions of canning. To shorten the process, Golden suggests making small batches, rather than aiming for 20 quarts of something and becoming overwhelmed. Golden points out that in our mild climate most produce is available year-round, so she focuses on preserving produce that is fleeting or seasonally abundant, like loquats, strawberries and tomatoes.

Golden laughs when the topic of poisoning friends inevitably comes up, and she explains that June Taylor, a well-known jam maker from Berkley (www.junetaylorjams.com), says the only danger from homemade preserves is if a jar is thrown at your head. Golden notes that it is easy to tell when a jar doesn't seal properly. After a jar has cooled completely from its water bath, the lid should not have any flex, nor should it make a popping sound when pressed in the center. The lid on a properly sealed jar does not have any give. Hold the jar in question at eye level and look across the lid. It should be concave (curved down slightly in the center). If the lid is either flat or bulging, it may not be sealed.

If somehow an improperly sealed jar gets by you, don't worry because even non-cooks recognize when foodstuff goes bad—the odor and appearance produce a universally identifiable red flag. When you open a spoiled jar, you immediately are hit with a bad scent, and likely will see mold growth on the food surface.

Tools for Success

Golden concedes that first time canning may cause stress. To bypass high kitchen anxiety she recommends buying *The Complete Book of Home Preserving*, by Judi Kingly and Lauren Divine (Ball Corporation, 2006). This book, Golden says,

breaks down the canning process into simple steps enabling the preparation of everything ahead of time. Preparation is the key to less stress. Golden observes that people have canned food for centuries, without help from our modern kitchen gadgets.

To take advantage of modern conveniences inexpensively, try places like Wal-Mart or Target. On-line shopping delivers a seven piece canning set with a steel canning rack, sterilizing rack for lids, two stainless-steel funnels, a magnetic lid wand, a jar lifter, a canning rack, and cheese cloth - all for $49.95! Such kits often lack large pots, which can be purchased separately. They vary in price from $18.00 to $200.00.

Start off with simple recipes. For hands-on-learning, there is a class called *Canning for Dummies* at Great News Cooking School in Pacific Beach.

Keep in mind canning dates back to the 18th century in France. The Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, wanting to feed his armies, offered a cash prize to whoever could develop a reliable method of food preservation. Nicholas Appert won the competition with airtight sealing in a newly designed glass canning jar.

Canning remains an inexpensive way to preserve homegrown food that is preservative-free and tastes garden-fresh. Persevere with preservation and become an expert, like my grandmother.

–Aenne Carver is a Master Gardener, writer and lecturer. She also is associate editor of this magazine. Visit her web site, www.thethriftygardener.com for a schedule of her talks and classes.

Photo: Aenne Carver

Anna's Orange Marmalade

A Barefoot Contessa recipe (www.barefootcontessa.com)

Yields 3 to 4 pints

Ingredients
4 large seedless oranges
2 lemons
8 cups sugar
8 cups of water

Directions
Cut the oranges and lemons in half crosswise, then into very thin half-moon slices. Discard any seeds. Place the sliced fruit and their juices into a stainless-steel pot. Add 8 cups water and bring the mixture to a boil, stirring often. Remove from the heat and stir in the sugar until it dissolves. Cover and allow to stand overnight at room temperature.

The next day, bring the mixture back to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and simmer uncovered for about 2 hours. Turn the heat to medium and boil gently, stirring often, for another 30 minutes. Skim off any foam. Cook the marmalade until it reaches 220 degrees Fahrenheit on a candy thermometer. It will be a golden orange color. (If the marmalade is runny, continue cooking it and if it's too hard, add more water.)

Pour the marmalade into clean, hot Mason jars; wipe the rims thoroughly with a clean damp paper towel, and seal with the lids. Store in the pantry for up to a year.

Grandmom's No-Waste Tomato Sauce

By Rachel Cobb

Growing up in a rural community, having a large vegetable garden, and "putting up the harvest" was a way of life. It is exciting to now see so many people interested in growing their own food, even if it's a few tomatoes and peppers in containers.

My first memory as a kid was whenever I was sick; my grandmother would show up with a quart jar of homemade grape juice. You had to feel better after that dose of medicine. My grandparents had a small farm and Grandmom grew the grapes. I still have those same grapevines, and now I am living on that small farm. Without fail, I make grape juice every year. After picking and cleaning the grapes, I cook them down to a juice. Then I strain them thoroughly, pour the juice into canning jars and use a hot water bath to process and preserve. To use, mix it with water or other juices, add sugar as needed. A ginger ale type soda will add bubbling fizz for special occasions.

One of my all-time favorites is preserving tomato sauce. Most traditional tomato sauce recipes have wasted steps removing the skin and the seeds. I was looking for a short cut, as well as less waste. This recipe adaptation is based on my grandmom's "no waste" sauce. For years I have been canning my sauce this way and it is delicious and simple. The principle change from the traditional recipe is to use the entire tomato. You will never know the seeds and skin are in the sauce. The tomatoes must be firm but ripe. I primarily use plum tomatoes but you can use any type tomato. I make sauce all summer long and the recipe changes are based on what I have in the garden. You can make it your own as well by adding other vegetables and herbs.

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Pint jars of "No Waste Tomato Sauce"

As a vegetarian, I like to make several varieties of sauce for my daily cooking. Walnuts add nice texture and different flavor. If you make the sauce with walnuts, it may darken slightly after a couple months. Don't worry, as long as your jars are sealed. Be sure to always follow standard canning directions for safety. Occasionally a jar lid can pop in storage and spoil. Don't use any preserved food if in question. It is best to store homemade preserves in a dry, dark and cool area to maintain the color and add longevity.

If your tomatoes are watery, strain the sauce using a colander, and collect the liquid in canning jars. Save and preserve this tomato liquid for soup stock. This recipe makes a large batch. You can alter the amount for a smaller serving.

– Rachel Cobb is a professional photojournalist, graphic designer, and weekend farmer. She is the Art Director for California Garden *magazine and web master for SDFloral.org. Visit Rachel's web site, www.weedyacres.com, for a tour of the world as she sees it.*

Grandmom's No-Waste Tomato Sauce

Makes about six-eight quarts

Ingredients:

25 pounds ripe tomatoes (about 75 medium)

¼ cup lemon juice

1½ cups granulated sugar, or to taste

Salt to taste

Fresh herbs of your choice - basil, thyme, oregano

6-8 peppers, any type, seeds removed and chopped

1-2 onions, peeled and chopped

Optional: organic walnuts, shelled and chopped.

6 (32 ounce) quart or 12 (16 ounce) pint glass preserving jars with lids and bands

Directions:

1. Wash tomatoes and drain. Remove blossom ends. Cut tomatoes into quarters. Use a food processer to chop to the consistency of your liking.

2. Combine lemon juice, sugar, salt to taste, fresh chopped herbs, peppers, onions in a large stainless steel stock pot. Hold the walnuts.

3. Simmer the chopped tomato mixture until volume is reduced to the consistency you desire. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking. This can take 2 to 4 hours. Add the chopped walnuts in the last hour of cooking.

4. Prepare boiling water in a canning pot that holds the jars. To sterilize, heat jars and lids in simmering water until ready for use. Do not boil or the lids may be damaged. Set bands aside; they do not need to be boiled or sterilized.

5. Ladle hot sauce into hot jars leaving 1/4 inch head space. Remove air bubbles. Wipe the outside rim to remove any spilled sauce. Center the hot lid on jar. Apply the band and adjust until it is fingertip tight.

6. Process the filled jars in boiling water in the canning pot for 15 minutes for pints and 20 minutes for quarts. If you can at a high altitude, you will have to adjust your timing. Consult a canning source (see the suggestions at the bottom of this recipe) for your area if needed.

7. Remove jars and cool. Check lids for a proper seal after 24 hours. Lid should not flex up and down when center is pressed.

8. Save a portion or two before you fill all the jars, and use for dinner on your favorite pasta. So tasty.

For canning information:

For water bath techniques, see http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/waterbath-canning-highacid-foods.html

Another good resource for FAQ, http://www.freshpreserving.com/pages/home_canning_faq/42.php

Everlasting Flowers:

Dried Today and Endearing For Tomorrow

By Aenne Carver

Preserving flowers from the garden is an old art. In ancient Egypt mummies were adorned with garlands of dried larkspur and acacia. Later, colonists settling America preserved their herbs and flowers by hanging them to dry inside their homes. The Victorians elevated preserving flowers to a fine art; indeed, every Victorian lady was schooled in the fine points of preserving flowers.

Today, dried flowers are still popular. Gardeners have the unique opportunity to grow exactly the type of flower they later want to dry. Learn how to preserve the flowers you have nurtured. Soon, you will enjoy bouquets of dried flowers that provide lasting beauty.

Many have tried to dry a rose from a special occasion, only to find that it ends up brown and unattractive. While this is discouraging, many flowers dry beautifully and easily. Keep in mind that occasionally your drying efforts will flop. Don't take it personally. Sometimes the weather is too humid, or the flowers were past their time when picked. Many factors beyond our control, such as temperature and humidity, go into a perfectly dried flower.

Photo: Aenne Carver

Drying Lavender

Select Flowers to Dry

To be as successful as possible, start by picking flowers that dry well. An everlasting flower, by definition, is any flower that retains its color and form when dried. A classic example of such a flower is the straw flower (*Helichrysum bracteatum*). This flower has papery petals that feel dry when still fresh on the plant. Most everlasting flowers have low moisture content in their petals, and this quality makes them ideal to dry.

Everlasting Flowers

Favorite Annuals

Amaranths
Cockscomb (*Celosia*)
Larkspur (*Consolida ajacis*)
Love-in-the-mist (*Nigella damascena*)
Pot Marigold (*Calendula*)
Safflower (*Carthamus tinctorius*)
Statice (*Limonium sinuatum*)
Winged Everlasting (*Ammobium*)

Favorite Perennials

Artemisia
Baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*)
Cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus*)
Hydrangea
Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)
Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*)
Strawflower (*Helichrysum bracteatum*)
Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Yarrow

There are many carefree everlasting flowers to grow in your backyard, such as statice, cockscomb, globe amaranth, baby's breath, yarrow, lavender, honesty plant, love-in-a-mist and strawflower. Even in the middle of summer you can still plant many of these favorites and get plenty of flowers to dry in a few weeks.

After you have had success drying the standard everlasting flowers you may wish to experiment with other flowers that are a bit trickier to dry like sunflowers, bachelor buttons, zinnia, salvias, roses, delphinium, hydrangea and larkspur.

Dried to Perfection

To dry most flowers, the easiest method is to hang them upside down. Allow the dew to dry on the flowers before you gather them, and try to pick flowers when they are at their peak. Create bundles of 12 to 20 flowers, depending on the thickness of the particular stems. If the bundles are too thick, mildew develops inside. Remove as many of the leaves from the stems as is practical. Bind bundles with string or rubber bands.

In general, the quicker the flowers dry, the better their color retention. Hang bundles in a dry, dark and airy place—good air circulation is key. Most gardeners don't have a barn or an easily accessible attic, but there are many places suitable for drying flowers. Drying racks for clothes, bamboo poles hung from the ceiling, trellises and ladders all can be used to hang flowers to

Photo: Aenne Carver

Methods for Drying Everlasting Flowers

Air Drying

Bundle flowers after removing all leaves from the stems. Use string, rubber bands or raffia to bind the bundles. Flowers dry best in an area that has good air circulation, low humidity and indirect light.

Glycerine

This method is best suited for a few types of plant material, like leaves and hydrangeas. Furthermore, it is cumbersome and expensive. Glycerine is now regulated because it can be used in making explosives. Pharmacies still sell small quantities and you can use a vegetable-based glycerine from health food stores. Create a solution of 40 percent glycerine and 60 percent hot water. Place three to four inches of the solution in the vase or large container. Then put the stems into the fixative and set the container in a cool, dark location for six to ten days. The time it takes to absorb the glycerine varies according to the density of plant material. Look for the color changes to be even throughout the plant material to be preserved. Sometimes the glycerine treatment results in blotchy coloring.

Photo: Sheryl Lozier . www.summerspastfarms.com

dry. Curtain rods also work; just make sure the window doesn't get direct sun. Wherever you dry flowers, an added benefit is that they are attractive and add color.

Tricks For Drying Flowers

Each flower dries best at a particular point in its development. For instance, statice dries best when only three quarters of the florets have opened. If you wait too long, some florets may be too mature and can turn brown. Study each flower to discover what stage gives the best dried results. There are many books on this topic, but trial and error is the best way to learn.

In addition to the aforementioned hard-to-dry roses, hydrangeas are another common flower that people try to dry and fail. To get perfectly dried hydrangeas there is a little known trick. Timing is everything. Don't try to dry hydrangeas until the nights turn cold. When hydrangeas are ready to dry, their petals become thicker and leathery to the touch with a slight crinkled appearance. If you try to dry one before it's time, all the petals collapse, shrink and lose color. On the other hand, when hydrangeas are ready, they are simple to dry. You can even leave them in a vase to slowly dry as the water evaporates.

Back to drying the difficult rose, try using a desiccant for a better, and more consistent finished appearance. A desiccant is a material that pulls the moisture out of a flower to dry it. (See the Tips section for selection of desiccants). Roses can be dried by hanging upside down; however, they need warm temperatures, low humidity and good air circulation. These elements are hard to control, and as a result you will have mixed results.

Many other favorite, large flowers can be successfully dried. Large-headed but flat flowers, like sunflowers, yarrow and zinnia, dry best when inserted into a screen or some kind of supportive grid. Strangely, their petals keep their shape and color better when dried right side up, with stems dangling down.

Some flowers, like chrysanthemums, dry best when laid on a flat tray. Another drying trick is to pull petals or leaves off of their stems, and dry them in a single layer on a flat surface. Certain flowers and herbs like bachelor buttons, mint, hyssop and summer savory, prefer such treatment.

Grow plenty of flowers and herbs, and experiment. Soon, you will find a sweet spot for drying, and you will discover the ideal method to dry your garden favorites. Arrangements of dried flowers are long-lasting when kept out of the sun and away from humidity. Try this ancient art to preserve the best of your garden.

–Aenne Carver is a Master Gardener, writer and lecturer. She also is associate editor of this magazine. Visit her web site, www.thethriftygardener.com for a schedule of her talks and classes.

Photo: Aenne Carver

Desiccants or Drying Agents

Borax
Fine Dry Silver Sand
Silica Gel

These agents can be used individually or mixed together to absorb the water content from flowers and leaves. Flowers and leaves dried this way look very close to their original form, but you must remove the fine dust left over. This works especially well for three-dimensional flowers like roses. If you use borax, it can leave a scent on the flowers. My favorite desiccant is silica gel. Read on for specific directions.

Microwave Drying with Silica Gel

Packages of silica gel come with the exact instructions needed for microwaving flowers. Most silica gel has crystals in it that change hue when the water from plants has been absorbed. This feature is handy and helps determine how long to microwave the flowers.

Silica Gel without Microwave

Pour a layer of silica gel into a container and arrange a few flowers on top. Then carefully cover with another layer of silica gel and add more flowers. After you have several layers, put the covered container in a dark place for two to three days. Remove the flowers as soon as they are dry, otherwise they become brittle.

Pressing

You can purchase inexpensive flower presses, or you can make a homemade flower press from two heavy wooden boards. Place flowers or leaves to be dried between blotting paper or other absorbent paper and position a layer of cardboard on either side. Then set the flowers sandwiched in paper and cardboard between the boards. The cardboard prevents layers from being imprinted on one another. Bind the boards with straps or tie tightly with rope (nylon string works well), and set aside to dry. The drying time varies according to density of the flowers or the foliage used, but begin to test for dryness after 10 days. Three-dimensional flowers, like large orchids or roses, are distorted by pressing. This method is ideal for flat flowers like pansies.

SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for July and August 2011

July Events

JULY 5

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
Ron Parsons will present the Orchids of Crete.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

JULY 6

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m. Culture Class; 7:00 p.m. General Meeting
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: *www.palomarorchid.org*

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.thesandiegoherbclub.com*

JULY 9

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information*: www.sdcss.net*

JULY 10

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING
Join us to hear a discussion by Ted Matson.
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Room 104 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.socalplumeriasociety.com*

JULY 11

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*

JULY 12

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500; *www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html*

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540; *www.sdgeranium.org*

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Temecula Community Rec. Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: *www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org*

JULY 13

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Lake Poway Pavilion, 14611 Lake Poway Rd., Poway
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

JULY 14

BERNARDO GARDENERS
Members Mystery Field Trip
When: 9:15 a.m.
Where: Carpool from the Ed Brown Senior Center (formerly Joslyn Center) parking lot, 18402 W. Bernardo Dr., San Diego
More information: 858-672-2454; *www.bernardogardeners.org*

JULY 19

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7117 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More information: Jody Peterson, 858-729-0711

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.cnpssd.org*

JULY 23

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553

JULY 26

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: St. Dunstan's, 6556 Park Ridge Rd., San Carlos
More information: 619-448-3613

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

JULY 27

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
When: 9:30 a.m. Social; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: 1105 Santa Madera Ct., Solana Beach
More information: *http://sdgc.klmmicro.com*

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
"Mango Fandango: Mango Varieties, Grafting and Culture"
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

JULY 28

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:00 a.m. Social; 9:30 a.m. Meeting
Where: The Winn Room, Coronado Library, 6400 Orange Ave, Coronado
More information*: www.crowngardenclub.org*

August Events

AUGUST 2

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

AUGUST 3

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.thesandiegoherbclub.com*

AUGUST 8

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*

AUGUST 9

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540; *www.sdgeranium.org*

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Temecula Community Rec. Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: *www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org*

AUGUST 10

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Lake Poway Pavilion, 14611 Lake Poway Rd., Poway
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

AUGUST 13

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY PICNIC
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Cypress Grove Picnic Area, Balboa Drive, San Diego
More information: *www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdcss.net*

AUGUST 14

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING
John Wang will address the group.
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Room 104 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.socalplumeriasociety.com*

AUGUST 16

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7117 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More Information: Jody Peterson, 858-729-0711

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

AUGUST 24

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: St. Dunstan's, 6556 Park Ridge Rd., San Carlos
More information: 619-448-3613

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m. Social; 10:00 a.m. Meeting
Where: 1105 Santa Madera Ct., Solana Beach
More information: *http://sdgc.klmmicro.com*

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Drought-tolerant fruit tree options are discussed.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

AUGUST 25

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:00 a.m. Social; 9:30 a.m. Meeting
Where: The Winn Room, Coronado Library, 6400 Orange Ave, Coronado
More information*: www.crowngardenclub.org*

AUGUST 27

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553

Visit www.sdfloral.org for your calendar of events.

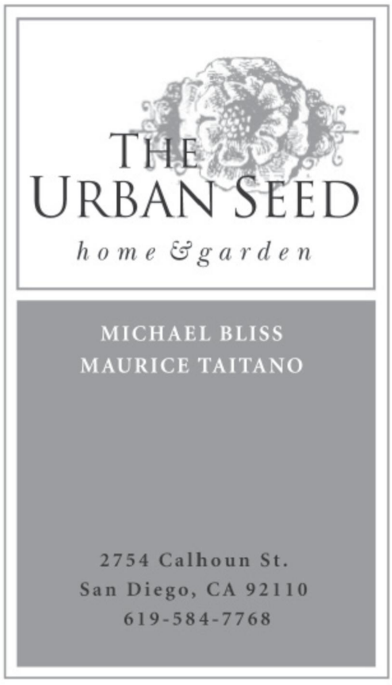
All events with web addresses have live links. Check it out!

Gardening Classes

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, PT. LOMA GARDENING CLASS
Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m., every Saturday.
Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego
More information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, POWAY GARDENING CLASS
Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m., every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway
More information: *www.walterandersen.com*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASSES
The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More information: 619-660-0614, x10; *www.thegarden.org*



Walks, Tours & Garden Events

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN TOUR
Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the San Diego Botanic Garden formerly known as The Quail Botanical Gardens. No reservations required. Free with admission.
When: 10:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m., every Saturday
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: *www.sdbgarden.org*

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN: CHILDREN'S EVENTS
The Hamilton Children's Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact San Diego Botanic Garden for a complete listing of their scheduled events.
When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: *www.sdbgarden.org*

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOUR
Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.
When: 10:30 a.m. every Saturday; 1:30 p.m. every Sunday
Where: Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More information: *www.thegarden.org*

CNPS NATIVE PLANT WALK
Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free, but may be canceled due to inclement weather or poor trail conditions.
When: 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m., first Sunday of the month
Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego
More information: 858-581-9959; www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/teclte.shtml

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN
Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.
When: 10:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m., Sunday
Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego
More information: *www.sdchm.org/garden*

Balboa Park Events

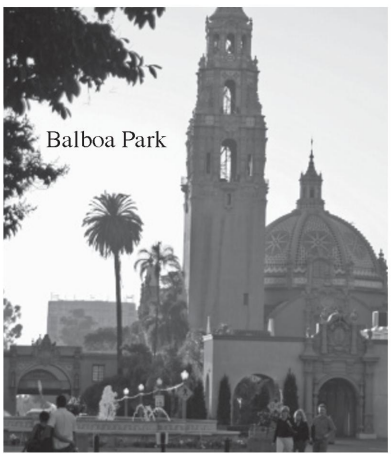
SAN DIEGO ZOO
Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.
When: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., third Friday of each month
Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegozoo.com*

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden, There is a $4 fee for adults, $2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D.
When: 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday
Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.niwa.org*

BALBOA PARK OFFSHOOT TOURS
Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)
When: 10:00 a.m. every Saturday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.balboapark.org*

BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS
Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.
When: 1:00 p.m. every Tuesday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.balboapark.org*

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM CANYONEER WALKS
Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a $2 fee.
When: Times vary; check website for specific event details
Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details
More information: *www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers*



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- ❖and much more!

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Upcoming Meetings:

July 11: Plant Tales of Early California

Maureen Gilmer, one of the leading horticultural communicators in America, will present a lively historic look back at the plants that defined San Diego and the people who brought them here. Members free, non-members $10.

Aug. 8: Creating and Keeping a Sustainable Landscape

Lynlee Austell-Slater, Master Gardener and sustainable landscape expert, will show us three pathways to sustainability in our landscapes, giving joy to all who live, visit and work therein. Members free, non-members $10.

Info: sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-7089

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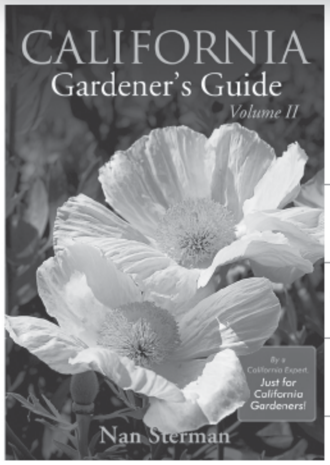

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Mission Statement: To promote the knowledge and appreciation of horticulture and floriculture in the San Diego region.

OBJECTIVES

1. To educate and encourage regional gardeners through lectures, classes, publications, scholarships and library resources.
2. To promote the use of regionally appropriate plants and gardening techniques, including natives and Mediterranean climate adapted plants.
3. To encourage, educate, and support floral design activities for personal and public display.
4. To advise and encourage leaders and the community in conservation and beautification of public and private spaces. To network and support plant-interested groups and societies

GENERAL MEETINGS 2011

February 16
April 19
June 21

Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
President: David J. Tooley
11375 Nawa Way
San Diego, CA 92129-1116
858-672-2593
djsj21643@aol.com

DAYLILY (HEMEROCALLIS)

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
President: Gary Colby
11375 Alberni Court
San Diego, CA 92126
858-566-0503
http://ahsregion7.org/daylily_club_pages/southwest_hemerocallis_society.htm

EPIPHYLLUM

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
President: Jerry Moreau
P. O. Box 126127
San Diego, CA 92112-6127
858-485-5414
www.sandiegoepi.org

FERN

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
President: Kathie Russell
4780 Glen Street
La Mesa, CA 91941-5466
619-464-2609
http://sandiegofernsociety.com

FRUIT

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, S. D. CHAPTER
Chair: Tom Del Hotal
2602 69th Street
Lemon Grove, CA 91945
619-454-2628
www.crfgsandiego.org

GERANIUM

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
President: Suzanne Gonzales
Contact: Melissa Worton
3722 Tanner Lane
San Diego, CA 92111
858-472-0540
www.sdgeranium.org

HERB

THE SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB
Co-Presidents: Judy Dunning & Cindy Christ
200 Highline Trail
El Cajon, CA 92021-4082
619-579-0222
www.thesandiegoherbclub.com

NATIVE PLANTS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
President: Kay Stewart
P. O. Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390
619-234-2668
www.cnpssd.org

ORCHID

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY
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1415 Sapphire Dr.
Carlsbad, CA 92011
760-604-4687
www.palomarorchid.org

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
Pres: David Brown
P. O. Box 161020
San Diego, CA 92176-1020
619-294-5925
www.sdorchids.com

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY
Pres: Roland Dubuc
P. O. Box 20553
El Cajon, CA 92021-0940
760-731-6188
www.socalplumeriasociety.com

ROSE

EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Maggi Jensen
3429 Quimby St.
San Diego, CA 92106
619-224-6346
www.eastcountyrosesociety.com

HERITAGE ROSE SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO
Coordinators: Jack and Mary Ann Olson
Contact: Thea Gurns
theagurns@sbcglobal.net

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Robert Martin, Jr.
2609 Canyon Crest Dr.
Escondido, CA 92027
760-317-5894
www.sdrosesociety.org

WATER GARDEN

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY
Pres: Ed Simpson
1302 Avocado Rd.
Oceanside, CA 92054-5702
760-436-3704
www.scwatergarden.org

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In Season

Here are some items that you may find being sold from the stalls at your local Farmers' Market in July and August. For more information about San Diego County Farmers' Markets visit www.sdfarmbureau.org.

July: Avocados, basil, beets, blackberries, boysenberries, cauliflower, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, figs, grapefruit, grapes, green beans, guavas, herbs, lemons, limes, melons, onions, peaches, peppers, plums, potatoes, radishes, raspberries, scallions, summer squash, strawberries, sweet potatoes, tangelos, tomatoes, Valencia oranges and various cut flowers.

August: Apples, avocados, basil, blackberries, boysenberries, cauliflower, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, figs, grapefruit, grapes, green beans, guavas, herbs, lemons, limes, melons, onions, peaches, pears, peppers, plums, potatoes, raspberries, scallions, summer squash, strawberries, sweet potatoes, tangelos, tomatoes, Valencia oranges and various cut flowers.

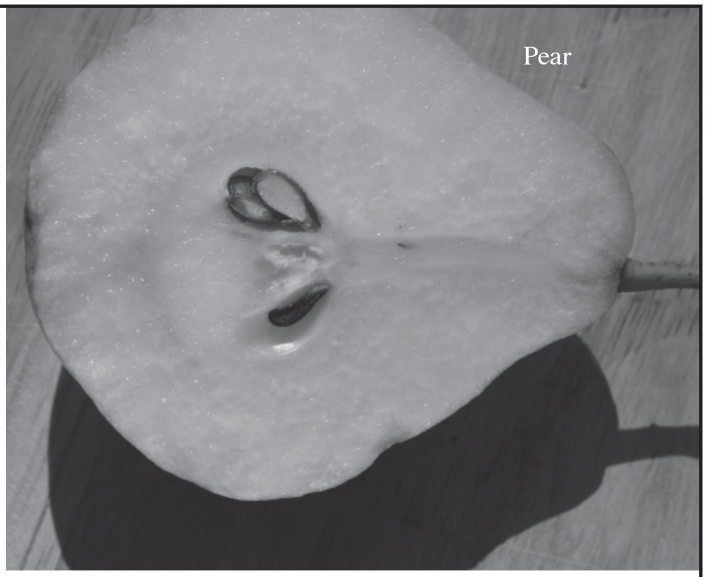

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Contact Us! Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let California Garden readers know about? If so, please email sdfloral@gmail.com or Denise Thompson at EarthD@san.rr.com with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, sent to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room 105, San Diego, CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch soon to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming Sept./Oct. 2011 issue is July 10, 2011; the deadline for the Nov./Dec. 2011 issue is September 10, 2011.

At its annual meeting in Balboa Park on June 21, 2011, the San Diego Floral Association elected new officers. The first Balboa Park gathering of the Association for an annual meeting was a festive affair on the grounds of the Panama-California Exposition in 1915. Kate O. Sessions provided a tour of the "Garden Fair" landscape and plantings and was one of the directors elected that evening. – Nancy Carol Carter

July 1915

The Annual Meeting [at the Panama-California Exhibition]

By Dorothy Marx

The annual meeting of the San Diego Floral Association, held June 15 at the Exposition Grounds, was a decided departure from those of former years.

In order to get a rate of twenty-five cents admission at five o'clock, it was necessary to guarantee a hundred tickets. [T]o have a dinner served, fifty places must be guaranteed.

More than a hundred members and friends gathered at the Southern Counties Building shortly after five o'clock and followed Miss Kate Sessions on her tour of the grounds, listening to her able and interesting talks on the many plants, trees and flowers gathered from all parts of the world.

At 6:30 the "procession" arrived at the Alhambra Café. Seventy reservations for supper had been phoned to the Secretary, but 103 presented themselves to be fed. The Café management . . . handled the extra crowd on short notice very satisfactorily; the whole south end of the building being occupied by the Association. [The] dinner was finished just in time to get over to the Southern Counties Building for the business meeting at 8 o'clock, where a crowd of other members had gathered.

The auditorium had been decorated by setting some huge baskets of flowers here and there, another departure from former years, when easy access had made it possible to do much more elaborate floral decorating.

President A. D. Robinson called the meeting to order and gave a resume of the Association's labors during the year, which seemed to thoroughly justify its existence. . . . The main business feature of the annual meeting is the election of a board of seven directors for the ensuing year, and for which nominations are asked in advance, and ballots prepared.

The following were elected: Miss K. O. Sessions, Miss [Alice] Rainford, Miss Alice Lee, Mrs. Thos. Kneale, Messrs. A. D. Robinson, L. A. Blochman and G. T. Keene.

A general discussion of Floral Association and *California Garden* affairs followed, following which Harold A. Taylor showed a wonderfully beautiful collection of auto-chrome lantern slides of flowers and floral scenes in and around San Diego.

Thus ended the 1915 annual meeting and it was pronounced a real success by all who were present.

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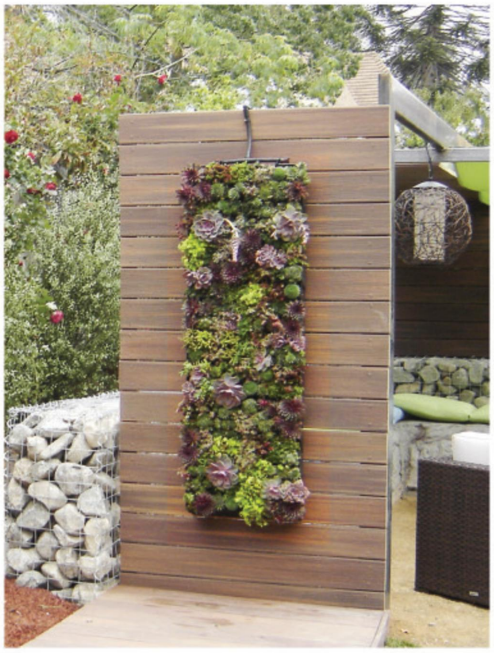

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1650 El Prado #105
San Diego, CA 92101-1684

PERIODICALS POSTAGE

Thursday Family Fun Nights

Every Thursday, to 8 PM • Now - September 1st

Summer evenings are a delightful way to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas. The Garden will be open on Thursday evenings until 8 PM from Memorial Day to Labor Day. We will have activities for children every Thursday in the Hamilton Children's Garden from 4:30 – 6 pm and then entertainment in the Lawn Garden from 6 – 7 pm. Bring a blanket or low chair to sit on. Here is what we have lined up:

July 7, 6:00 – 7:00 PM Storytelling and Music from Africa
July 14, 6:00 – 7:00 PM Hullabaloo
July 21, 6:00 – 7:00 PM Clint Perry & The Boo Hoo Crew
July 28, 6:00 – 7:00 PM Dance Around the World with Nikola Clay
August 4, 6:00 – 7:00 PM Fabulously Funny Fairy Tales
August 11, 6:00 – 7:00 PM Wild Wes
August 18, 6:00 – 7:00 PM Avian Eyes Interactive Outreach
August 25, 6:00 – 7:00 PM Hullabaloo
September 1, 6:00 – 7:00 PM Miss Timmaris Time

Hullabaloo

Avian Eyes Interactive Outreach

Dance Around the World

Cost: FREE with admission or membership
Entertainment is subject to change.

San Diego Botanic Garden
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024

www.SDBGarden.org

San Diego BOTANIC GARDEN